

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**CLAIMS LISTING:**

This listing of Claims will replace ALL prior versions and listings of the Claims in the present application:

Claims 1 - 49 (Canceled)

50. (New) A media including a pair of opposed edges, the media is transported across a tape head in a transport direction during a manufacturing of the media and the tape head including a plurality of alignment elements and a plurality of write elements, the media further comprising:

a plurality of alignment transitions that are prerecorded on the media by the alignment elements during the manufacturing of the media and prior to a writing of a data on the media, the alignment transitions including a recorded orientation with respect to a selected one of the opposed edges or the transport direction, and the alignment transitions define a plurality of alignment bands that are spaced apart from each another; and

a plurality of written transitions that are prerecorded on the media by the write elements during the manufacturing of the media and prior to the writing of the data on the media, the written transitions define a plurality of write bands that are spaced apart from each other, and

wherein the alignment transitions are operative to allow the write elements on the tape head to be precisely aligned with a preferred orientation with respect to the transport direction.

51. (New) The media as set forth in Claim 50, wherein the recorded orientation of the alignment transitions is perpendicular to a selected one of the transport direction or the opposed edges.

52. (New) The media as set forth in Claim 50, wherein the alignment bands and the write bands are spatially separated from each other on the media.

53. (New) The media as set forth in Claim 50, wherein the alignment bands and the write bands are parallel to the transport direction.

54. (New) The media as set forth in Claim 50, wherein the alignment transitions in adjacent alignment bands are colinear with one another when the recorded orientation is perpendicular to the transport direction.

55. (New) The media as set forth in Claim 50, wherein the alignment transitions in adjacent alignment bands are positioned along parallel axes and the alignment transitions are colinear with one another when the recorded orientation is perpendicular to the transport direction.

56. (New) The media as set forth in Claim 50, wherein the written transitions comprises servo code that is prerecorded on the media in the write bands by the write elements during the manufacturing of the media.

57. (New) The media as set forth in Claim 56, wherein the write band comprises a servo band.

58. (New) The media as set forth in Claim 57, wherein the servo band is parallel to the transport direction.

59. (New) The media as set forth in Claim 50 and further comprising an area on the media that is predesignated for other uses.

60. (New) The media as set forth in Claim 59, wherein the area on the media that is predesignated for other uses comprises plurality of data bands and the data is written in the data bands after the manufacturing of the media.

61. (New) The media as set forth in Claim 59, wherein the alignment transition are written in the area on the media that is predesignated for other uses.

62. (New) The media as set forth in Claim 59, wherein the area on the media that is predesignated for other uses is defined by a format specification for data storage on a magnetic tape.

63. (New) The media as set forth in Claim 62, wherein the format specification is selected from the group consisting of a Liner Tape-Open format, an **ULTRIUM** format, a **TRAVAN** format, and a **MAGSTAR MP 3570** format.

64. (New) The media as set forth in Claim 62, wherein a position of the alignment bands and the write bands relative to each other on the media is defined by the format specification.

65. (New) The media as set forth in Claim 62, wherein the area on the media that is predesignated for other uses comprises a plurality of data bands, the data is written in the data bands after the manufacturing of the media, and a position of the alignment bands, the write bands, and the data bands relative to each other on the media is defined by the format specification.

66. (New) The media as set forth in Claim 62, wherein the area on the media that is predesignated for other uses comprises a plurality of servo bands and servo code is written into the servo bands during the manufacturing of the media, and the alignment transitions that are written on the media during the manufacturing of the media do not overwrite and do not interfere with the servo code in the servo bands.